AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 U.S. Appln. No. 09/918,532

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A process of producing an acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising:

feeding a monomer solution comprising a mixture of an alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer and a radical polymerization initiator, and carbon dioxide to a joint block equipped with a line mixer;

mixing the monomer solution and carbon dioxide in the joint mixer;

feeding the resulting mixture to a continuous reactor; and

performing continuous bulk polymerization at a polymerization temperature of 50 to 180°C for a residence time of 0.5 to 60 minutes in a continuous reaction zone of said reactor, thereby obtaining an acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising 10% by weight or less, based on the weight of the total monomers, of components having a molecular weight of 100,000 or less.

- 2. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polymerization temperature is 65 to 130°C.
 - 3-5. (Canceled).
- 6. (Currently Amended) A process of producing an acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising:

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feeding a monomer solution comprising a mixture of an alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer and a radical polymerization initiator, and carbon dioxide to a joint block equipped with a line mixer;

mixing the monomer solution and carbon dioxide in the joint mixer;

feeding the resulting mixture to a continuous reactor; and

performing continuous bulk polymerization at a polymerization temperature of 50 to 100°C for a residence time of 60 to 200 minutes in a continuous reaction zone of said reactor, thereby obtaining an acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising 10% by weight or less, based on the weight of the total monomers, of components having a molecular weight of 100,000 or less.

- 7. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein said polymerization temperature is 50 to 80°C.
 - 8-10. (Canceled).
- 11. (New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive comprises 6.5% by weight or less, based on the weight of the total monomers, of components having a molecular weight of 100,000 or less.
- 12. (New) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive comprises 6.5% by weight or less, based on the weight of the total monomers, of components having a molecular weight of 100,000 or less.

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